

INTERN SUCCESS STORY



EVAN WILLIAMS

I was exploring my options in public service and found myself in a very rewarding situation at the Comptroller's office.

I first encountered the Comptroller's office at a career fair in the student union at UT-Austin. I wasn't exactly sure what I wanted to do, but I was drawn to public service for many reasons. I did have general hesitations to specialize in one corner of the public sector, but I was excited at the chance to study how governments handle macroeconomies. This detail of my larger academic interests grew from pragmatism and likely playing too many games of Risk, Monopoly and Sid Meier's Civilization.

Before my internship in the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division (PTAD), I was a part-time office and policy assistant for the Texas Conference of Urban Counties (TCUC) during my senior year at UT. In that role, I observed the 86th Texas Legislature and the many relationships between current urban issues and social interests. Because of the timing of my internship and later employment at PTAD, I've had an incredibly unique experience, having first spent my days doing secondary research on Senate Bill 2 while at TCUC, and now spending the day implementing parts of that bill. SB2 limited property tax revenue growth and restructured some property tax oversight programs for the Comptroller's office.

Looking back, this was exactly what I had hoped for: direct exposure to the legislative and executive branches all within a year. Almost immediately at PTAD I was given two roles as an intern – one assisting the Field Operations Team and another under the Education Team. My

co-workers were engaging, my bosses were insightful and, overall, I felt very welcomed. When the end of the summer neared, I was disheartened that I might have to leave the public sector and do something like sales, but luckily PTAD expanded its workforce, and I was hired.

Now, I'm a member of the Information Analysis and Security Team, helping to phase in electronic submissions of appraisal rolls and to understand historical trends for the Property Valuation Study. I love that there is such a wide door of opportunity for me to practice what I learned as an undergrad. I'm confident that when I leave to continue my education, it will only be a temporary departure.



Evan Williams